

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
318 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel: 217/492-4450

RODGER A. HEATON
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



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Contact: David E. Risley
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(217) 492-4450

Another Springfield Defendant Sentenced in Cocaine Distribution Conspiracy

Springfield, IL – Gerald M. Vondebur, age 41, of 2144 Fairway, Springfield, Illinois, was sentenced today to serve 63 months in federal prison for his role in a conspiracy to distribute at least five kilograms of powder cocaine in the Springfield area from 2004 to October 2005, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. During today's sentencing hearing, the government requested and U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott granted a 10 percent reduction in Vondebur's sentencing range based on the defendant's cooperation with law enforcement since his plea of guilty in August 2006. Vondebur has been detained since his arrest in November 2005.

Vondebur pled guilty to the two offenses charged by a federal grand jury on November 17, 2005: conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine (one count) and use of a telephone to facilitate a drug offense (one count.) Vondebur admitted that he conspired with Michael Mohan and others to distribute cocaine in central Illinois. According to Vondebur, he received powder cocaine from Mohan and subsequently sold it to others. These transactions often occurred at his home and resulted in his receiving cash. When Vondebur needed additional supplies of cocaine to sell, he obtained it from Mohan and others.

The charges were the result of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Springfield Police Department, the Illinois State Police and the Central Illinois Enforcement Group. Assistant U.S. Attorney David E. Risley represented the government at sentencing.

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